

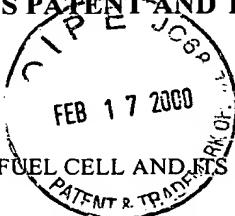
## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Masahiro SAITOU, et al.

SERIAL NO: 09/448,144

FILED: November 24, 1999

FOR: SEPARATOR OF PROTON EXCHANGE FUEL CELL AND ITS MANUFACTURING METHOD



GAU: 1700

EXAMINER:

1745  
#3 PDS  
322300  
H. Butler

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

## REFERENCES

- The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.
- A check is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

## RELATED CASES

- Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. A copy of the patent(s) is attached along with PTO 1449.
- A check is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

## CERTIFICATION

- Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

## PETITION

- Applicant(s) hereby request consideration of the attached information. A check is attached in the amount of the Petition fee required under 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1).

## DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

- Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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DOCKET NO: 0039-7444-0TTC

Sheet 1 of 1

SERIAL NO: 09/448,144

Group Art Unit: 1700

STATEMENT OF RELEVANCY

O  
FEB 17 2000  
SEARCHED

**Reference AA (US 5,521,018) on Form 1449:**

This patent is concerned with the used to carbene plate for separators by the BALLARD in Canada. The ballard fuel cell stack is designed for operation with both pure hydrogen and steam reformed methanol as fuels.

**Reference AW on Form 1449:**

This reference aims to investigate some aspects related to the design of the mechanical components of a PEMFC stack, without analyzing in detail the electrochemical ones, such as electrode and membrane.

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TC 1700 MAIL ROOM